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Senate

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

High and Holy God, we praise Your Name. Bless Your work in all the places of this world. Strengthen those who labor in distant mission fields and protect those who fight for our freedoms in foreign lands. Touch the lives of Third World victims of disease and destruction, of poverty and pathology, of tyranny and neglect.

Lord, remember our own land. Quickened the hearts of our lawmakers that they may be forces for good. Guide the efforts of those who work in our Government's executive and judicial branches, providing wisdom for the challenges they face. Redeem us from selfishness as You build into us a holy reverence for others and a desire to pursue Your purposes. We pray in Your blessed Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHERROD BROWN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Today, following any time that will be used by the leaders, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1348, the immigration bill.

When the Senate resumes the motion, Senator SESSIONS will be recognized for up to 3 hours. Following that time, the remaining time will be divided between the two leaders.

A cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the bill will occur at 5:30 today.

If cloture is invoked on the motion to proceed, by a previous order, the Senate would then adopt the motion and proceed to the bill.

As we know, all those who negotiated on this worked very hard over the weekend. I appreciate their work. The provisions of that agreement will be the form of a substitute agreement, which I understand will be laid down this evening.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ALEJANDRO VARELA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, over the weekend, 7 U.S. soldiers were killed in Iraq—in 2 days—bringing the total this month to over 70 and the total since the war started to 3,422 American soldiers.

On Friday, the State of Nevada lost PFC Alejandro Varela, a 19-year-old

from Fernley, NV. As he traveled south from Baghdad, his vehicle was hit by a makeshift bomb, and he was killed.

Alejandro was known in high school and by his family as Alex. Serving in the military was his ambition, and he worked very hard to earn his GED so he could arrive at the goal of being able to join the military.

For lack of a better description, my heart and the hearts of Nevadans and all Americans ache with the loss of this 19-year-old man. Yet we have to be proud of his willingness to serve and his courage and we are certainly humbled by the sacrifice he made in giving his life.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL

Mr. President, this week the Senate will continue the conference on the emergency supplemental bill. Negotiations have not been easy as President Bush continues to stand isolated to his commitment to this endless war. We will continue to negotiate in good faith and in the spirit of bipartisanship. We will send the President a bill that fully funds our troops. We stand firm in our commitment to change course and bring the war to a responsible end.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

While the supplemental conference committee continues to meet, we will begin addressing the complex, crucial issue of immigration reform, and we will do that today. We all agree the current system is broken.

Employers don't know whom they can hire and whom they can fire. Produce is dying on the vine because farmers cannot find enough workers to harvest crops. There are no winners under the current system, only losers.

The Senate will have an opportunity this afternoon to vote on whether to begin debate on comprehensive immigration reform.

The bill we debate and eventually pass will give us the chance to strengthen border security, put in place an effective and efficient employer verification system, design a

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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